



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

March 2, 2007

**PLANT CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION
OF FIREARMS AND NARCOTICS**

Tampa, FL -United States District Court Judge Richard A. Lazzara sentenced TAHONIE JOYCE, age 27, of Plant City to a term of 15 years' imprisonment. That sentence arose from his plea of guilty on December 15, 2006 to possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

According to the indictment and the plea agreement, law enforcement agents executed a search warrant at the residence of TAHONIE JOYCE on March 14, 2006 in Plant City and found a quantity of marihuana and cocaine base in his room, as well as a .380 caliber Davis Industries pistol, loaded with 6 rounds of ammunition and a quantity of cash.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle

District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.